

---

WORKING PAPER NO. 51  
31 August 1992  
ENGLISH ONLY

---

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda \*/

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR  
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Yemen  
(Submitted by Yemen)

YEMEN

Mr. President

After the unification of the two Yemens has been accomplished on 22 May 1990, the country became very particular about checking, composing, and naming its geographical features on topographic and geographic maps with different scales starting from 1: 50,000 up to the millionth scale.

It should be noted here, however, that in Yemen there is a Region (province) that speaks only the "Mehri" language. All geographical names given to this region (province) are Mehri names. This language is only a spoken (un-written) language.

Yemen has done its best to adjust writing to the pronunciation of the language in order to simplify the map-reading process. Yemen has also made a serious effort in writing local names having the right pronunciation, beside the old names; in particular those names of geographical (capes) looking over the Red Sea, Bab Al Mandab, the Bay of Aden, Arabian Sea, Island of Soukatra, since exonyms were given to them for years by sailors. These exonyms have no relevance to the Yemen names given to them.

Yemen is also working very hard to prepare an updated map for the Republic with one system for all parts of the country instead of the previously used two systems in map preparation. Yemen has now abandoned the use of old names of the previous two sectors of the country as well as the boundary line which was there before the unification of the country. All Yemen maps currently became unified.

In this international gathering, the Yemen delegation would like to express its gratitude to all countries which have abandoned the use of the old names given to the two parts of the country before unification, and substituted them with the new name. We have seen such example exhibited in this hall.

The Yemeni Delegation also sincerely hopes that other countries would follow this action and make necessary corrections to place on its maps the new name of the Republic of Yemen.